

## NH DPHS Climate and Health Advisory Meeting:

The Public Health Impacts of Extreme Weather and a Changing Climate

<https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/programs-services/environmental-health-and-you/climate-health>

Meeting Notes from Webinar on 7/28/22 ~ 830-11 AM



- **Welcome:** Logistics and how MS TEAMS works for engagement
  - Our Charge for the Day: Learn about regional weather & climate vulnerabilities; Explore specific interventions to improve public health evidence; Connect with others to address the public health threats
  - Agenda:
    - Learn: Findings from Monadnock Resilience Initiative 2022
    - Explore: Sunset Status of DPHS Climate Program
    - Connect: Partner Updates, Projects & Plans
  - Introductions: Add your name & affiliation to the Chat. See separate attendee list.
  
- **Presentation: Monadnock Climate & Health Resilience Initiative (CHRI).** A review of the findings from two workshops and surveys completed over the past year. The presentation will cover how to measure and build resilience to extreme weather at the local level. Plus, your questions and comments.
  - **Contents:**
    - The presentation included narrative and images on the Project History, Selected Toolkits, Intervention, Results, Participant Benefits, and Next Steps.
    - See attached pdf slides for details
  - **Discussion and Takeaways**
    - In an uncertain climate future, it may be better to focus on building community resilience, system level change, and social cohesion
    - A [written report](#) published by Antioch NEU provides details on the methods, findings, and recommendations for future work.
    - Antioch may want to consider a short video and website to promote this work

- Monadnock Regional Public Health Network and Antioch University will be working together to build on partner communications network as part of a capstone project. Contact: Cynthia Nichols and Tricia Zahn
- Comment made that Project ECHO, a learning platform, may be a model to continue to this work.

- **Progress Report: DHHS Climate and Health Program:**

A review of the successes and challenges of the state climate and health program over the past nine years of activity from 2013-2022. Specifically, what have we accomplished over the past 5 years regarding community interventions to build evidence-based public health? What products & services will continue? Attendee poll results. Plus, your ideas on next steps.

- **Contents:**

- The presentation included funding, activities, key products and services, BRACE framework, workforce capacity building, communications & outreach, community interventions, evaluation & results, bad/good news on climate change, results from a poll, and DPHS capacity without funding.
- See attached pdf slide set for details
- Additional resources are available at the [DHHS climate & health](#) website.

- **Open Discussion**

- What DPHS Climate products and services are most valuable to you?
- Do you see any climate impacts among your target populations?
- What is the role of your program in responding to weather and climate issues?
  - There is value to focus on the NH-specific hazards and specific data

- **Break time:** 10 minutes

- **Partner Updates: What is your organization doing to address weather, climate or health issues in NH?** All partners are welcome to discuss projects or plans

- Semra Aytur – UNH Health Management and Policy
  - Collaborates with NH Healthcare Workers for Climate Action  
<https://www.nhclimatehealth.org/>
  - Published a report on Urban Watershed Management:  
<https://scholars.unh.edu/jel/497/>
  - Published a report on Wetland Services in Coastal Adaptation:  
<https://scholars.unh.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1154&context=jel>
  - Announced an upcoming workshop using Project ECHO – multiplier effect for outreach and education (building on Dartmouth Project ECHO that

introduce climate and health to the medical sector). The UNH ECHO HUB will connect individual and community-level resilience with the topics of mental health and Climate Justice. There is a Fall ECHO Project on connecting individual and community-level resilience with mental health and Climate Justice. Contact: Semra Aytur: [semra.aytur@unh.edu](mailto:semra.aytur@unh.edu)

- Environmental Justice Project in Manchester on Urban Heat Islands.
  - New projects focused on the importance of blue-space as an ecosystem service.
  - Working on telehealth, co-benefit of reducing transportation emissions.
  - Newest UNH Climate Report: <https://scholars.unh.edu/sustainability/71/>
- Karen Craver – NHDES Air Resources
    - Many resources available to view environmental conditions that may be related to climate change, including Lake Information Mapper: <https://nhdes.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=1f45dc20877b4b959239b8a4a60ef540>
    - Map for current beach closures: [https://www4.des.state.nh.us/WaterShed\\_BeachMaps/](https://www4.des.state.nh.us/WaterShed_BeachMaps/)
    - NHDES Harmful Algal Blooms page: <https://www.des.nh.gov/water/healthy-swimming/harmful-algal-blooms>
    - Reports of potential blooms can be made by calling or texting the cyanobacteria hotline at 603-848-8094, or emailing HAB@des.nh.gov. You can even send a photo if you have one.
    - NHDES Drought Page: <https://www.des.nh.gov/climate-and-sustainability/storms-and-emergencies/drought>
  - David Hollinger, US Dept of Agriculture - The [USDA Northeast Climate Hub](#) is looking to work with the Cheshire Conservation District in their program to provide pilot climate adaptation grants to local farmers.
    - Interested in research and outreach on practices that help producers increase their resilience to climate change while also reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions or increasing carbon storage. <https://www.climatehubs.usda.gov/hubs/hub-priorities-fy22-nifa-rfa>
  - Abi Abrash Walton – Antioch NE University
    - Announcement of the Spring 2023 Climate Resilience Conference

- New report on Centering Equity in Climate Resilience Planning and Action: <https://communityresilience-center.org/applied-research/>
  - NOAA RISA Grant with many academic partners focused on climate migration, and creating a thriving and protected Northeast Region.
  - NSF Proposal submitted to continue Climate and Health Resilience Work in Monadnock and Nashua regions.
  - ANEU offers [Climate Resilience Certificate](#) for Professionals.
- Joe Ayotte – US Geological Survey
    - Published a model for Simulated hydrologic response to climate change in NH: <https://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2017/5143/sir20175143.pdf>
    - New England Drought Information | U.S. Geological Survey ([usgs.gov](https://www.usgs.gov))
    - New England Flood Information | U.S. Geological Survey ([usgs.gov](https://www.usgs.gov))
    - Study to Test a Novel Shallow Well Design that May Provide Contaminant-Free Water Supply to Domestic Well Users in Arsenic-Prone Parts of the United States | U.S. Geological Survey ([usgs.gov](https://www.usgs.gov))
    - Northeast | Fourth National Climate Assessment ([globalchange.gov](https://www.globalchange.gov))
- Joe Fontaine – NHDES Air Resources
    - Current efforts focus on: Mitigation Efforts and GHG Emissions
    - RGGI is the regional cooperative effort to reduce CO2 from power plants undergoing program review, NH SAVES Program for energy efficiency, and Reportable Portfolio Standard incentivizes alternative energy sources, expanding EV usage and infrastructure.
    - <https://www.energy.nh.gov/energy-efficiency-sustainable-energy-board>
    - <https://www.rggi.org/program-overview-and-design/program-review>
    - <https://www.nh.gov/dot/media/documents/20220520-htc-evse-presentation.pdf>
    - <https://www.des.nh.gov/business-and-community/loans-and-grants/volkswagen-mitigation-trust>
- Henry Underwood – Southwest Regional Planning Commission
    - Transportation Focused Project – feasibility study related to expansion of public transportation system in the Keene Area.
    - Housing Project – Conducting housing needs assessment as part of federal requirements: <https://www.nharpc.org/rhna/>

- Continued work on Hazard Mitigation Planning at the local level is a real opportunity to integrate this work going forward.
- Emily Thompson – NH Healthcare Workers for Climate Action
  - As healthcare workers are uniquely positioned to increase public awareness of the links between health and climate change, we seek to provide NH healthcare workers the tools to educate and mobilize the public in support of climate solutions to improve health for all. See more at: <https://www.nhclimatehealth.org/>
  - Our next organization-wide campaign: NH Hospital and Health Sustainability. Please view the Sign-On Letter: <https://www.nhclimatehealth.org/actions>
- Bob McLellan (via email) – Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth
  - We are looking for funds for a Climate-Informed Clinical Care project
  - I will teach the first Climate and Health MPH course at The Dartmouth Institute (TDI) in the Spring term
  - The Irving Institute has a dynamic new, interim leader with deep experience in energy transition. She is helping us create an inventory of all the climate work begin done across many disciplines at Dartmouth.
  - Collaborator Sarah Crockett has gathered a group of interested Dartmouth employees called the 'Alliance for Climate and Health'. Among other things she has proposed an approach to including climate science in the medical school curriculum and hopes to spur Dartmouth Health toward a more sustainable future.
- Katie Bush – NH DHHS, DPHS
  - The Environmental Public Health Tracking Program remains a partner and resource at NH DHHS in the climate and health space.
    - Visit our Website: <https://www.nh.gov/epht/>
    - Check out the DHHS Data Portal: <https://wisdom.dhhs.nh.gov/wisdom>
    - Join the Data Portal Newsletter: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/aXbCW0E/DataPortal>
- **Wrap Up Session:** Review decisions or action items from the discussion, and any final comments by stakeholders.
  - A few questions to consider: How will this group continue to stay connected? How will we continue and sustain this work?

1. In follow up, DPHS staff will send you:
  - Brief meeting notes and slides
  - A list of participants with email contacts
2. DPHS will continue to support limited services
  - Maintain the NH Climate & Health Program website
  - Maintain the EPHT data portal with heat injuries
3. Participants encouraged to contact & partner to continue to build the evidence for action.
  - Join a mailing list for updates from EPHT Data Portal  
<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/aXbCW0E/DataPortal>
  - Visit and get updates at [Antioch NEU Center for Climate Preparedness & Community Resilience](#)
  - & others

Farewell: We hope you all have a healthy, hopeful, and active summer & autumn season!

#### **Acknowledgments:**

- This work was supported by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) - Climate Ready States and Cities Initiative Cooperative Agreement (CDC-RFA-EH16-1602).
- Contents of this presentation are the views of the authors and do not reflect the official views of the CDC or their respective health agencies.
- Please visit and support the CDC at: <https://www.cdc.gov/climateandhealth/default.htm>

